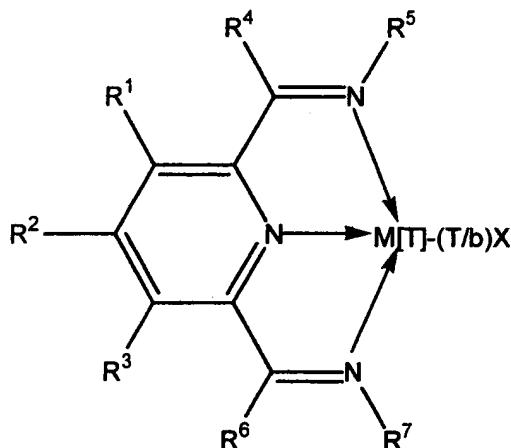


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of a supported catalyst, comprising the steps of
 - a) contacting a support material containing 1-10% water with a trialkylaluminum compound to form an alumoxane in-situ; and
 - b) contacting the resulting material with a transition metal complex of formula (I)



Formula (I)

wherein M is Fe[II], Fe[III], Co[I], Co[II], Co[III], Mn[I], Mn[II], Mn[III], Mn[IV], Ru[II], Ru[III] or Ru[IV]; X represents an atom or group covalently or ionically bonded to the transition metal M; T is the oxidation state of the transition metal M and b is the valency of the atom or group X; R¹ to R⁷ are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl, heterohydrocarbyl, substituted heterohydrocarbyl and SiR'₃ where each R' is independently selected from the group

consisting of hydrogen, halogen, hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl, heterohydrocarbyl and substituted heterohydrocarbyl.

2. (Original) Process according to claim 1, wherein the support material is silica, alumina, aluminosilicate or crosslinked polystyrene/polyvinylalcohol.

3. (Previously presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein the support material is first dehydrated before being contacted with water.

4. (Previously presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein the support material is contacted with a solution of the trialkylaluminum compound in an amount sufficient to provide a mole ratio of trialkylaluminum to the water in the support material of from 3:1 to 1:2.

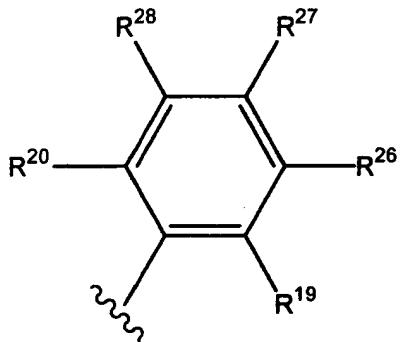
5. (Previously presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein the support material is contacted with the trialkylaluminum compound in the presence of a solvent.

6. (Previously presented) Process according to claim 5, wherein the solvent is an inert hydrocarbon selected from the group consisting of isobutene, butane, pentane, hexane, heptane, octane, cyclohexane, methylcyclohexane, toluene and xylene.

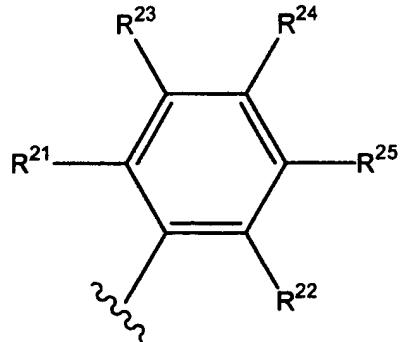
7. (Currently amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein the trialkylaluminum compound is trimethylaluminum (TMA), triethylaluminum (TEA), tri-isobutylaluminum (TIBA) or tri-n-octylaluminum.

8. (Currently amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein the ~~trialkylaluminum compound and support material mixture resulting material from step a)~~ is contacted with the transition metal complex of formula (I) in an amount sufficient to provide an aluminum to transition metal ratio of from 300:1 to 10:1[[.]].

9. (Currently amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein in the transition metal complex of formula (I), R⁵ is represented by the group "P" and R⁷ is represented by the group "Q" as follows:



Group P



Group Q

wherein R¹⁹ to R²⁸ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl, heterohydrocarbyl and substituted heterohydrocarbyl.

10. (Original) Process according to claim 1 wherein the transition metal complex of formula (I) comprises one or more of

2,6-diacetylpyridinebis(2,6-diisopropylanil)FeCl₂

2,6-diacetylpyridinebis(2,6-diisopropylanil)MnCl₂

2,6-diacetylpyridinebis(2,6-diisopropylanil)CoCl₂

2,6-diacetylpyridinebis(2-tert.-butylanil)FeCl₂

2,6-diacetylpyridinebis(2,3-dimethylanil)FeCl₂

2,6-diacetylpyridinebis(2-methylanil)FeCl₂

2,6-diacetylpyridinebis(2,4-dimethylanil)FeCl₂

2,6-diacetylpyridinebis(2,6-dimethylanil)FeCl₂

2,6-diacetylpyridinebis(2,4,6 trimethyl anil)FeCl₂
2,6-diacetylpyridinebis(2,6-dimethyl 4-t-butyl anil)FeCl₂
2,6-dialdiminepyridinebis(2,6-dimethylanil)FeCl₂
2,6-dialdiminepyridinebis(2,6-diethylanil)FeCl₂
2,6-dialdiminepyridinebis(2,6-diisopropylanil)FeCl₂
2,6-dialdiminepyridinebis(1-naphthil)FeCl₂ or
2,6-bis(1,1-diphenylhydrazone)pyridine.FeCl₂.

11. (Currently amended) Process according to claim 4, wherein the mole ratio of trialkylaluminum to water is from 1.2:1 to 0.9:1.